

15 June 1954

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Report from Mr. [ ] on Situation in Guatemala

1. Mr. [ ] telephone me from New York at 10:20 on 15 June and stated he had received an overseas call at 11 p. m. on 14 June from a country close to Guatemala, that his informant was most reliable, and had reported the following:
  - A. There is a reign of terror at Tiquisate. Twenty-four anti-Communists have been arrested. They include 5 overseers, 4 time keepers and 15 foremen of a 1500 acre plantation.
  - B. 400 people have been arrested throughout the country.
  - C. 80 army officers have called on Arbenz to express their extreme dissatisfaction with the current situation and have requested the removal of Commies from government. Arbenz promised his reply for this morning.
  - D. All but 35 words sent by Kennedy of the New York Times were cut.
  - E. The New York Times has been unable to communicate this morning either by phone or by cable with its Guatemalan office.
  - F. The brother-in-law of Col. Castillo Armas was captured at Quezaltenango, tortured and killed.
  - G. ARBULACH, a merchant, was arrested in Guatemala City, tortured and killed.
  - H. Jose MIRANDA of the Mundo Libre has been locked up.
  - I. Gabriel MARTINEZ del Rosel was tortured to the point where he was driven insane.

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J. The settlement of the Guatemalan strike is looked upon by the Fruit Company merely as winning a skirmish, not a battle. The number of employees involved was relatively small.

K. The strike in Honduras remains unsettled. The Company has offered in salary and fringe benefits an increase of approximately 25% of current wages. Strikers are asking for 50% increase of wages plus fringe benefits.

[ ]  
J. C. KING  
Chief, WH

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